ENGLISH 4376.010: Fiction Writing Workshop

GENERAL SYLLABUS  Spring 2018

Instructor: Terence A. Dalrymple

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Office Hours: 10-12 MWF; 8:30-9:30 & 1-2 TR; and by appointment

Course: English 4376—Fiction Writing Workshop

Course Description: Intensive practice in writing and evaluating fiction. May be repeated once for credit.

Prerequisites: Successful completion of freshman and sophomore requirements and of English 3355.

Purposes: This course is designed to offer students serious study and practice in writing and evaluating fiction, with heavy emphasis on workshopping student work.

Major Objectives: Students will make progress in the following areas:
--Gaining factual knowledge (IDEA #21)
--Developing creative capacities (IDEA #26)
--Developing skill in expressing oneself orally or in writing (IDEA #28)

Student Learning Outcomes: Students will be able to perform the following tasks effectively:
--Define literary terms discussed throughout the semester
--Use literary terms to identify elements of individual literary works
--Discuss the effectiveness of specific literary works
--Analyze the effects of literary elements in specific works
--Analyze overall effectiveness of specific works
--Write effective original fiction.

Assessment Procedures: Student learning outcomes will be assessed via quizzes, oral presentations, required fiction writing, group and class discussions, workshop participation, and the final exam.

Student Activities: Students’ major activities during the semester will include reading, listening to and taking notes on lecture material, discussing course material in class and group discussions, leading discussions of course material, writing fiction, completing quizzes and exams, and actively participating in workshops.

Methodology and Activities: Reading, lecture, class discussion, group work, oral presentations, writing, workshops, quizzes, exams.
Evaluation Procedure: Students final course grades will be calculated as follows:

- Quiz and participation average…………………………………………………………35%
- Stories…………………………………………………………………………………60%
- Final Exam………………………………………………………………………………05%

Grading Scale: 90-100 = A; 80-89 = B; 70-79 = C; 60-69 = D; 59 & below = F

Major Assignments and Deadlines:

--Reading assignments must be completed by class time on the date specified on the daily assignments sheet.

--Quizzes over reading assignments will be given on the day the reading assignment is due.

--Students must write at least two original short stories (20 pages total minimum). These can also be used for workshop stories. See supplemental handout for additional details.

These stories must be original. Any plagiarized work will earn you an F for the course.

You should turn in stories as you complete them, but you must turn them in by the deadlines specified on the Daily Assignments sheet. All stories must be submitted via the shared Dropbox folder AND in hard copy.

--Workshops consist of discussions of students’ original short stories. Within the first three weeks of the semester, you will choose the dates on which your stories will be discussed. At least two full days prior to the dates you choose, you must provide the story via Dropbox to everyone in class; everyone will read it prior to the date on which it is to be discussed. You are expected to attend every class this semester, and you MUST attend classes on the days your stories are workshopped.

--Your participation throughout the semester will account for part of your course grade. My evaluation of your participation depends heavily on class attendance, completion of reading and writing assignments on time, ability and willingness to answer specific questions when called upon, and willingness to participate voluntarily in class discussions. I will keep a record of your participation (and all other work), which you are welcome to review at your request.

--The final exam will be given at the time specified by the University (see Daily Assignments sheet).
Required Textbooks: None

NOTE: All reading material will be provided by the instructor or by students. All students must bring copies of reading material to class when that work is under discussion. Students who do not bring reading materials to class may be counted absent and receive a zero daily grade.

Attendance Policy: Students are expected to attend every class meeting. They are expected to arrive on time and remain in class for the entire class period. Typically, the only valid reasons for missing class are illness, family emergency, and University business. Except in cases of emergency, doctor appointments should be scheduled for times other than class times. Students requesting make-up work or permission to submit late work must provide evidence of a valid reason for missing class. Students who know in advance that they will miss a class should consult with the professor in advance. Any student who accumulates nine (9) absences will receive an F for the semester.

Students who are habitually late to class, habitually leave class early, or habitually leave and then return during class time will be counted absent for every two occurrences. If another professor regularly keeps the class late prior to this class, you should consult with that professor about leaving in time to attend this class. If you have difficulty finding a parking place, you should adjust your schedule accordingly so that you can arrive to class on time. If you must regularly leave class to visit the restroom, you should consult a doctor.

Please note that I do not distinguish between “excused” and “unexcused” absences. An absence is non-attendance of any regularly scheduled class time. While I sincerely hope (as I’m sure you do) that you will not experience any extreme case of illness or family emergency, they do occasionally happen. Any student who must miss three weeks or more of classes for any reason should seriously consider withdrawing from the course.

Observances of Religious Holidays: A student who intends to observe a religious holy day should make that intention known in writing to me prior to the absence. A student who is absent from classes for the observance of a religious holy day shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment scheduled for that day within what the instructor deems a reasonable time after the absence.

Honors Statement: Angelo State University expects its students to maintain complete honesty and integrity in their academic pursuits. Students are responsible for understanding the Academic Honor Code, which is available on the web at http://www.angelo.edu/forms/pdf/honorcode5.pdf. Students caught cheating on a quiz or exam will receive a zero for that assignment; if caught a second time, they will
fail the course. Students submitting plagiarized written assignments will receive an F for the course.

Common Courtesy: Students are expected to exhibit common courtesy toward their professor and their classmates at all times. A few guidelines for common courtesy follow:
--arrive on time and remain for the full class time
--if late arrival or early departure is unavoidable, sit near the door to avoid distracting others
--remain seated unless class assignment requires otherwise
--do not hold individual conversations unless directed to do so by the professor
--stay awake
--work on this course material only
--do not eat
--do not pop gum
--do not begin packing prior to the official end of class
--do not wear any sort of head phones
--prior to entering the classroom, turn off all cell phones and other electronic devices that might create a distraction.
--NOTE: Formal, professional studies have demonstrated that no matter how good we think we are at multi-tasking, activities such as texting during class lecture/discussion significantly diminish our attention to lecture/discussion material and, therefore, our comprehension and understanding of that material. For your own sake, then, you may not use head phones or cell phones in the classroom without the express permission of the teacher. Any student using such devices during class for any reason will be asked to leave the classroom and will be counted absent.

Students’ Special Requirements: Persons with disabilities that may warrant academic accommodations must contact the Student Life Office, Room 112 University Center, in order to request such accommodations prior to any being implemented. You are encouraged to make this request early in the semester so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

Student-Professor Communication: Other than class time, you may consult with me in person during the office hours specified at the beginning of this syllabus or during another specified time on which we have agreed in advance. You may also contact me via e-mail or telephone. However, I neither check nor respond to telephone messages as regularly as I do e-mail messages. In addition, I do not check or respond to e-mail or phone messages after I have left my office for the day (usually between 4 and 5 p.m.) or on weekends.
Please Note: Your syllabus for this class lists class policies and deadlines for all major assignments. Please consult the syllabus before e-mailing or calling with questions that are answered there.

Please Also Note: A college education includes learning to communicate appropriately with individual audiences. To help you practice effective communication, I require that e-mails to me be designed and written appropriately for your purpose and audience. All e-mails must begin by addressing me (e.g., Dr. Dalrymple); they must be written following the conventions of standard written English (e.g., complete sentences, capitalization where necessary, punctuation where necessary, correct spelling); they must end with your first and last name and the course and section number (unless the course and section # are included in the text of the message). I will not respond to e-mails that do not follow these easy guidelines.

Student Success: This course is designed so that all students with college-level skills in reading, writing, note-taking, and study skills can pass with a C or higher, so long as they complete all assignments on time, attend class regularly, and remain attentive during class time. More specifically, successful students will
--attend every class meeting on time and remain for the full time;
--regularly consult the syllabus for assignment deadlines and course policies;
--complete all reading assignments on time and bring reading materials to class;
--complete all writing assignments on time and submit them according to instructions;
--remain attentive during class and follow guidelines of common courtesy;
--take notes on class material, particularly on terminology discussed and on other major topics of discussion;
--review notes regularly;
--participate in class, group, and workshop discussions;
--ask questions about material that remains unclear;
--study for the final exam as suggested by the professor.

Required Senior Portfolio: Candidates for the Bachelor of Arts in English are required to complete a portfolio to be eligible for graduation. Students may submit this portfolio after completing all major requirements or in the semester immediately prior to graduation. The portfolio grade will not affect GPA, but will be part of the student's record.
Daily Assignments

W 1-17  Introduction to class
F 1-19  TBA
M 1-22  Read "Lust"; begin scheduling workshops
W 1-24  Read "Exhortation"
F 1-26  Read "Journey Back to the Source"
M 1-29  Continue discussion
W 1-31  Read "Sticks" and "The Boy"
F 2-2   Read "True Romance"
M 2-5   Continue discussion
W 2-7   Workshop
F 2-9   Workshop
M 2-12  Workshop
W 2-14  Workshop
F 2-16  Workshop
M 2-19  Workshop
W 2-21  Workshop
F 2-23  Writers Conference assignment
M 2-26  Workshop
W 2-28  Workshop
F 3-2   Workshop
M 3-5   Workshop
W 3-7   Workshop
F 3-9 Workshop; first story due
M 3-12 SPRING BREAK
W 3-14 SPRING BREAK
F 3-16 SPRING BREAK
M 3-19 Workshop
W 3-21 Workshop
F 3-23 Workshop
M 3-26 Workshop
W 3-28 Workshop
F 3-30 HOLIDAY
M 4-2 Workshop
W 4-4 Workshop
F 4-6 Workshop
M 4-9 Workshop
W 4-11 Workshop
F 4-13 Workshop
M 4-16 Workshop
W 4-18 Workshop
F 4-20 Workshop
M 4-23 Workshop
W 4-25 Workshop; second story due (the 20-page requirement must be completed by this date)
F 4-27 Workshop
M 4-30 Workshop
W 5-2 Review
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<td>W</td>
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